



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Columbia State Historic Park

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www.columbiadiggings.blogspot.com

Ruth Coleman, Director

2008 Columbia Diggings Participant Rules

Columbia Diggings is a public educational event, which has been held at Columbia State Historic Park for the past 26 years. The main goal for the event is to assist the public in gaining a better understanding of life in the early days of the California Gold Rush. Many tent towns sprung up in the foothills during those times, one of which gave rise to the town of Columbia.

California State Parks believes that interpretive events are fundamentally different than re-enactments, in that a primary element of the event is to interact with and inspire visitors. For this reason, participation in interpretive workshops is required of all interpretive volunteers. Several interpretive sessions are available, in order to accommodate all participants.

Scheduling Volunteers participating in the event are asked to schedule for a minimum of 4 hours interpretive shift per day on site. This ensures even coverage throughout the event, and (ideally) allows all participants time to wander and interact.

Morning Meeting Thursday-Sunday at 9am, all participants are asked to meet at the flagpole, for the morning meeting. This is where last-minute issues are shared and resolved. If you have questions or concerns that you'd like to bring up, please do so, or let staff know.

An additional area for communication is on the bulletin board in the Green Room. Media for the event, lost and found, and other notices are posted here.

Meals There are several options available for registered volunteers for lunch, both at the site, and in the air-conditioned "green room". To avoid waste, volunteers are asked to schedule lunch meals. Continental breakfast items are also available in the "green room" and potluck dinners may be available on site, but are dependent upon the energies of volunteers, and are not guaranteed. Our traditional "Thank You" dinner is served at 5:30 PM on Sunday, at the site.

On-site purchasing Every registered volunteer is issued stipend of "Eagles" when they check in on-site. These are for use in purchasing snacks at the event and to encourage interactions.

Weapons. *New in 2008:* California Law requires that criminal records checks must be conducted for all volunteers carrying firearms or edged weapons at our events. For this reason, only current, active volunteers of California State Parks are permitted to carry weapons at Diggins. If you will be bringing a weapon, it must be included on your registration papers. All other state park weapons policies must be followed. Control of all weapons is the responsibility of the participant who brings the weapon to the event, weapons should stay holstered, and no weapons are to be fired on site. The State of California and Columbia State Historic Park are not responsible for loss or theft of any weapons.

Fire. By order of the Office of the California State Fire Marshall, all sources of flame at the event are regulated. Fire plans must be submitted to park staff by March 15th to allow time for review by the Deputy State Fire Marshall. No smoking is permitted at the event site, at any time during the event period (including evenings). Participants providing their own tents must certify that their tenting has been treated to meet the California State Fire Marshall's Standards.

Character Portrayals We ask that if you are portraying a known historical figure, that you restrict your portrayals to persons documented to have been present in Columbia in June of 1852. Out of respect to the historic person, your portrayal should be based, as much as possible, on the documented facts.

Costuming and Props

This event portrays a California Gold Rush tent town, in June 1852. All costuming should be as accurate as possible to represent the time period, the character being portrayed, activities and age of the wearer. We encourage participants to engage with each other and share costuming choices. "Please tell me about what you are wearing" should be considered a polite and honest inquiry, and an opportunity to learn. If you need assistance in costume development, or need to borrow a costume, the park has resources available.

We understand that many interpreters wish to bring their own gear. All participants are encouraged to let staff know of their needs for props, so that we can budget and plan for future purchasing. However, if you chose to bring and share your personal belongings, California State Parks cannot be responsible for theft or loss.

Alcohol. Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or consumption of same, while on duty as a volunteer or on site during public hours, is a violation of state park policy.

Sales. The sales portions of the event are fundraisers for *Friends of Columbia State Historic Park*, and are specified in a special event permit. Please, no outside sales, unless under prior written agreement with *Friends*.

Paperwork & Liability. All participants shall report to the Portals area when arriving at the event site, to complete final paperwork, confirm meals, and receive scrip. All participants must have a current Volunteer Service Agreement, a Photo Release and a signed copy of these rules on file with the park.

We also ask that you complete a confidential health record for this event, containing emergency contact information, current medications, etc, in a sealed envelope. This will be shredded immediately after the event, and only opened by park staff in case of emergency.

Photo Release Diggins is a public event and use of event photos allows the park to be able to extend the influence of the event, throughout the year. Event photos are used for publicity, and in a variety of other educational programs. All participants are required, to sign the photo release. Participation in the event is an assumption of agreement to be photographed. If you have concerns about the use of your image, please contact park staff.

Vehicles. Vehicles are prohibited on site from Thursday at 8:00 a.m. through the close of the event at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. This includes evenings after public hours. This is to limit congestion and reduce risk of damage to persons and property after the event begins. Many of our volunteers, who stay on site, like to have their evenings free from modern intrusions. Modern camp sites (with limited resources) is available with notification.

Participation. If you arrive after the above listed times for vehicle entry, be prepared to pack the items you bring into the site in period style conveyance or wait until the event closes for help. Please do not set up or take down your venues during the public hours (10-5, daily). This type of activity can be very disruptive to the event.

Pets. Pets must have prior approval of park staff, and all state park regs apply.

Personal Health. This event is very labor intensive. Please take care of yourself, get plenty of sleep, drink lots of water to avoid dehydration, and take breaks to cool off if necessary.

First Aid. State Park Rangers are first responders and are the only staff authorized

to provide first aid to park visitors. For emergency response, please call 911, or contact staff at the Portals. There will be a designated volunteer on site at all times with a radio to reach state park dispatch. Cell phones also work in the area.

Modern Stuff

It probably goes without saying that it is important that costumed interpreters avoid using modern devices such as cell phones and plastic water bottles, in view of the public. Cold water and lemonade are available at the Diggins in the Star Spangled Saloon, and the Bakery. We encourage you to bring a period-appropriate cup or mug for endless refills.

The Kudos Kan

The humble Kudos Kan sits in the Green Room at the Eagle Cotage, throughout the event, and is the grateful recipient of even the smallest acknowledgements. Its contents are traditionally read out loud during the Sunday evening Thank You dinner. We recognize that the success of this event is due to the many small miracles that occur throughout, and we encourage you to recognize, in this small way, the contributions you observe.

Have fun and be safe!

The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

To Contact Park Staff:

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